



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

December 16, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Nathan Macek, Jerry King, Stephen Klejst, James Lewis, Christine Michaelis and Annika Moman

Commissioners Excused: Commissioner Jake Jakubek

Commissioners Absent: Mayor William D. Euille

Staff Present: Allan Fye – T&ES, Patrick Reed - T&ES, Steve Sindiong -T&ES and Karen Callahan – T&ES

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. November 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chair Nathan Macek asked if there were any edits to the November 18, 2015 minutes. There being no edits, Commissioner Stephen Klejst made a motion to approve the November minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Jerry King, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.

2. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received funding updates for the following ongoing projects: the West End Transitway; the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan; the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; the Route 1 Metroway; the King Street Metrorail Station; the Eisenhower Avenue Metrorail Station; the Eisenhower Avenue Widening; the King Street / Beauregard Street Improvement; the Motorcoach Task Force; the Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS); the Old Town North Small Area Plan; and the MGM Task Force.

Chair Macek stated that staff presented the draft work plan for Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) to Council on December 8, 2015. He reported that Council did not move forward on the staff initiated process for amending residential parking permits, which was supported by the Transportation Commission, and endorsed in a letter by the Commission recommended at the November 18, 2015 meeting. The OTAPS work plan will be brought back to Council on January 26, 2016. Chair Macek suggested that the Commission reiterate to Council its recommendation that the staff initiated process for amending residential parking permit zones be included on the list of recommendations. Reforming the current process to change on-street parking regulations may

expedite improvements to individual block faces and would allow for more consistent parking regulations block-to-block that would be less confusing to residents and visitors. The staff initiated process would streamline any necessary adjustments to on-street parking regulations, and allow staff to initiate logical changes in parking restrictions in response to a resident requested change on an adjacent block. Commissioner Stephen Klejst made a motion that the Commission advise Council to include a mechanism for the City staff to move forward on staff initiatives to improve the overall utilization of on-street parking available in residential block faces, and that the recommendation should also be evaluated along with other citywide residential parking policies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner King, voted on and unanimously approved the Commission.

On the MGM Task Force, the Commission noted that the Task Force needs to consider potential employees that may live in Alexandria, commuting to MGM. Transit options, including improved WMATA service and connectivity to the Green line should be explored.

3. Commission Updates

Commissioner Lewis stated the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names will hold its first meeting in City Hall on January 27, 2016 in Sister Cities Room 1101 from 7 - 9 pm.

Commissioner Michaelis reported the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee will hold its 9th meeting on January 19, 2016 at TC Williams High School Rotunda Room from 7-9pm, and will receive information on the draft plan.

Commissioner King indicated he attended two Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Work Group meetings. The Work Group continues to collect input from the public on the design of the station.

4. I-395 Express Lanes Project (VDOT)

T&ES staff member Alan Fye stated he is the City's Project Manager for the I-395 Express Lane project. The State's proposal is to extend the project north to the DC line; incorporate the same access and tolling rules as I-95 Express lanes; add an extra lane to the existing two-lane HOV facility; conduct environmental analysis on conversion from HOV to HOT lanes, and identify transit, carpool, vanpool, and Transportation Demand Management opportunities along the corridor. He reported the City raised a number of questions related to the project, which were included in a letter sent to the Secretary of Transportation.

Mr. Fye stated the project is a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) project. The City will coordinate with Arlington, Fairfax County and VDOT to further explore the proposal and how it differs from prior I-395 HOT Lane proposals. The City will actively participate in the environmental assessment to ensure the City's concerns are addressed. The plan guarantees funding for new or enhanced transit service. There could be potential for a connection to the City's West End Transitway project. Public outreach will be held in all jurisdictions impacted. Project construction is planned to begin in 2017 and open in 2019. Commissioner Michaelis noted that the project could potentially reduce cut-through traffic on Seminary Road. Other questions raised by the Commission included: 1) how will the lanes terminate at the 14th Street bridge in the northbound direction?; 2) Where do the proposed HOT lanes technically start in the southbound direction?; 3) How will the improvements affect transit travel time, and how do we ensure that the West End Transitway won't be negatively impacted?; 4) Will any of the existing bridges need to be rebuilt?; and 5) We need to understand the impact on the corridor with and without the proposed improvements.

5. FY 2017-26 Budget

T&ES staff Steve Sindiong gave a recap of the FY 2017 budget process. The input gathered through community meetings, as well as the guidance provided by the Transportation Commission to Council was presented to City Council at its annual retreat on November 21, 2015. On November 24, 2015, the City Council provided budget guidance to the City Manager, and Mr. Sindiong provided an overview of the guidance list. He noted that guidance was based on considerations that funding needs still outpace the City's resources. Mr. Sindiong outlined the upcoming calendar items for the budget process stating the City Manager's Office will reveal the proposed budget in late February. The Transportation Commission will hold a public hearing on the budget during its March meeting. In late April, City Council will have its preliminary add/delete list discussion. On May 7, City Council will hold a special meeting to adopt the budget. The Commission discussed the need to continuing to be vocal about limiting the City's TIP funding toward WMATA.

6. Other Business

T&ES staff Steve Sindiong announced the City is in the process of re-enacting the Ad Hoc Motorcoach Task Force. The Task Force will be responsible for providing guidance on new locations for motorcoach loading/unloading and short term parking. The group is anticipating four meetings beginning in late February 2016 through the summer. Commissioner Klejst offered to represent the Transportation Commission on the Task Force.

Chair Macek announced that Scott Anderson has moved out of Alexandria and resigned from the Commission. Scott's position requires an Alexandria resident who lives east of Quaker Lane. Chair Macek encouraged Commissioners to refer acquaintances interested to file an application with the Clerk's office. As a result of the recent Mayoral and City Council elections, one or both of the Commission's Council positions could change. Also vacant is the Planning Commission representative position left vacant by Maria Wasowski.

Commissioner King asked about the status of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) relocation to Victory Center. Chair Macek noted that the General Services Administration may appeal the Federal judge's decision, or could do a new solicitation, or award the project to another property. Commissioner King stated that the City should have a plan for implementing interim transportation investments, especially to attract other potential tenants if the TSA does not move forward on the relocation.

Mr. Sindiong noted that the Commission Chair / Vice Chair elections will be held in January, 2016.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner King, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.